

20070324 MAR 2006

An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))

#### CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus where a paper feed opening portion for feeding a recording medium toward a transfer region of an image carrier formed with an electrostatic latent image is provided in an apparatus main unit, wherein  
a paper conveying path face for conveying a recording medium from the paper feed opening portion is formed of an inclined face inclined at a proper angle, and  
an inclination angle of the inclined face is set to such an angle that ambient light entered in interior of the apparatus main unit through the paper feed opening portion is oriented in a direction except for a direction toward the image carrier.
2. (Non-amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inclined face forming the paper conveying path face is constituted of a flat face or a plurality of undulated faces.
3. (Amended) An image forming apparatus where a paper feed opening portion for feeding a recording medium toward a transfer region of an image carrier formed with an electrostatic latent image is provided in an apparatus main unit, wherein  
a paper conveying path for conveying a recording medium from the paper feed opening portion is constituted of a plurality of thin plate-like partition plates arranged at proper intervals along a direction perpendicular to a paper conveying direction, and  
a light shielding plate for shielding the image carrier from ambient light entered from the paper feed opening portion in interior of the apparatus is provided at a lower portion of a paper conveying face constituted of the thin plate-like partition plates.

STATEMENT BASED UPON CONVENTION ARTICLE 19(1)

According to this amendment, such a constitution that the paper conveying path extending from the paper feed opening portion is constituted of an inclined face for directing ambient light in a direction except for in a direction of the image carrier is clarified in Claim 1, and such a constitution that a light shielding plate is disposed at a lower portion of the paper conveying face constituted of thin plate-like partition plates is clarified in Claim 3.

On the other hand, "a member attached with vinyl chloride" and "a member with an embossed cover face" are exemplified as "a light shielding portion" according to the invention disclosed in the cited Document 2. However, these members only scatter ambient light in various directions, and even if light toward the image carrier can be reduced, it is impossible to cut the light completely.

On the other hand, in the present invention, such a significant effect that ambient light entering from the paper feed opening portion can be cut to the image carrier approximately completely can be obtained by forming the paper conveying path extending from the paper feed opening portion in the "inclined face" (Claim 1) and providing the "light shielding plate" at a lower portion of the "thin plate-like partition plates" (Claim 3).

Accordingly, the present invention is clearly different in technical idea from the invention described in the cited Document 2, so that it can not be easily made from the cited Document 2.